

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The phrase "in particular" this expression makes the features purely optional and is not a positive recitation, however later in the claims the feature is positively recited/ relied upon.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by GB 2163805.

1. GB 2163805 discloses a mobile ring connecting/release device (2,3,4), in particular for a high mast with a tower with predetermined height and a fixed supporting head (1) at one end of the tower, comprising connecting means attached to the mobile ring in such a way as to removably connect it to the fixed supporting head (Abstract; page 1, lines 3-10, 90-98, 110-129; page 2, lines 10-93; figures 1-9), the connecting/release device being characterized in that the connecting means comprise

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rigid contact elements (3) shaped in such a way that they rest on corresponding supporting head (1) contact portions (10,12).

2. The device according to claim 1, characterized in that each contact element is rotatably fixed on a corresponding mobile ring upright (2).

3. The device according to claim 2, characterized in that each of the contact elements (3) is shaped in such a way that it is at an angle to a horizontal direction, in the home configuration (as seen in the figures).

4. The device according to claim 2, characterized in that the contact portions form guides (tubular portion 4) for insertion of the mobile ring upright (2) in the fixed supporting head (as seen in the figures).

5-6. The device according to claim 4, characterized in that the fixed supporting head (1) comprises means for activating a rotation of a contact element (3) about an axis substantially perpendicular to a mobile ring upright (2), for aligning the contact element (3) with the upright and allowing insertion of the latter in the guides (4; as seen the figures);

wherein the means for activating the rotation comprise at least one pusher body (wall of tubular member 4) connected to the guides and or at least one peg fixed to the supporting head, both acting on a portion of a contact element (as seen in the figures).

7. The device according to claim 2, characterized in that each contact element (3) is fixed on a corresponding mobile ring upright (2) by means of a single pin (7).

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8. The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the contact portions (10, 12) have at least one substantially horizontal and flat surface (as seen in the figures generally at the top/bottom of slots 12, 13).

9. The device according to claim 8, characterized in that the contact elements (3) have at least one substantially flat outer surface (at least at 8 and/or 14), allowing them to rest without gaps on the corresponding flat surface of the contact portions (as seen in the figures).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JESSICA LAUX whose telephone number is (571)272-8228. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday, 9:00am to 5:00pm (est).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Chilcot can be reached on 571-272-6777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Richard E. Chilcot, Jr./
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3635

/J. L./
Examiner, Art Unit 3635